

Mississippi Baptist Convention

November 8-10, 1982
 First Baptist Church
 Jackson, Miss

FIRST SESSION: Monday Afternoon, November 8

1:20	Musical Praise	
1:30	Convention Called to Order	James F. Yates
1:35	Call to Worship	
	Congregational Praise	Lamar Self
	Scripture	Ralph Stovall
	Prayer	C. H. Stone
1:45	Message in Song	The Gore Sisters
1:55	Organization of Convention	
	Recognition and Seating of Messengers	
	Report of Committee on Order of Business	
	Welcome to Jackson	Earl Craig, Jr.
2:10	Congregational Praise	
2:15	Bible Treasure	Brian Harbour
2:30	Business Presentation	
	Report of Committee on Committees	
	Report of Committee on Constitution and Bylaws	
	Presentation of 1983 Budget	
3:00	Congregational Praise	
3:10	Testimony	
3:20	Introduction of New Workers in State	
3:30	Message in Song	Sanctuary Choir, FBC Yazoo City
3:45	President's Address	James F. Yates
4:15	Benediction	

(Continued on page 2)

Seminary student changed ways, going home as pastor

By Tim Nicholas

A young Mississippian is going back to where he sowed his wild oats to sow a different kind of seed, those of the Gospel message.

Lennon Brown, 30, a student at the Mississippi Baptist Seminary in Jackson, is the new pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church at Glendora, a quarter time church.

In nearby Swan Lake and at Greenville, Brown says he was once, in "street talk," a "home town playboy."

He explains, "I did my own thing," working part time as a disc jockey. Brown "sold dope, drank whiskey, used women like a person used a tool, gambled—I was rotten, selfish."

In 1977, he decided on his own that selling dope was foolish and though he had never been a churchgoer, when someone offered a witness, he was ready to listen.

Brown says he stopped to talk with a white woman peddling clothes on the streets of Greenville. In a long conversation, the woman talked about people who don't think of anything but



Lennon Brown

themselves—and about prayer and how to pray.

During the conversation, an old black woman walked up asking for money to buy one of the dresses. "Something went through me then."

(Continued on page 2)

Nobles announces MC - Clarke merger completed

By Don McGregor

A call for a massive, united fund-raising effort for the colleges of the Mississippi Baptist Convention and the Mississippi Baptist Children's Village and the announcement that merger arrangements between Mississippi College and Clarke College have been completed were features of the convention's Education Commission meeting last week.

Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, was the speaker for a dinner meeting of the commission, and he proposed the fund-raising effort during his remarks. Kelly noted that several agencies from outside the state were conducting fund-raising endeavors in Mississippi, and he felt that the institutions of the state convention should not be left out in such considerations. There was no time frame or dollar amount suggested, but it was noted that the goal should be substantial.

Lewis Nobles, president of Missis-

issippi College, announced during his report to the commission, that all necessary documents relating to the merger between Mississippi College and Clarke College had been signed and that the merger was complete. He noted that the trustees of Mississippi College will continue to operate Clarke College as a two-year institution. It has accreditation as a two-year school. During his report Nobles noted that Clarke has a total enrollment of 214 students, of which 93 are freshmen, 38 are sophomores, 65 are juniors or seniors, and 18 are special students. The freshman class is the largest since the 1978-79 school year, when the enrollment was 106 for freshmen. The sophomore class is the smallest in several years, but that was attributed to the economy. The total enrollment is down from 230 during the last school year, when there were 65 special students.

Nobles said that while there will be no emphasis on juniors and seniors on

(Continued on page 2)

Strict drunk driving bill enactment urged

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—A new bill authorizing financial incentives for states which enact stricter drunk driving laws provides the needed leverage to get drunk drivers off the road, Ronald D. Sisk says.

The bill, just passed by Congress and awaiting President Ronald Reagan's signature, includes authorization for \$125 million in basic and supplemental grants over the next three years for states which adopt and implement effective programs to reduce traffic safety problems caused by drunk drivers. The money must be used only to implement and enforce such programs.

"This bill is of major importance," said Sisk, director of program development for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission. "Every concerned Southern Baptist ought to be on the phone to his or her legislator urging their state laws be brought into compliance with the provisions of this bill. Obviously drunk driving is a moral and not a financial issue but those of us who battle against the immorality of drunk driving will not have money on our side as well."

The standards set forth in the bill require suspension of a driver's

license for at least 90 days on the first offense and one year on repeat offenses for driving while intoxicated or for refusing to submit to an intoxication test. The bill sets one-tenth of one percent minimum blood-alcohol content as legal proof of intoxication.

The state also must call for a mandatory 48-hour jail sentence or at least 10 days of community service for anyone convicted of drunk driving more than once in any five-year period. Increased enforcement and publicity of drunk driving laws is required.

"The bill also provides funds for a National Driver Register which would give state law enforcement officials an accurate record of a driver's previous offenses," Sisk said. "This system will be crucial in aiding detection of repeat offenders."

The states may also be eligible for additional money if they meet other criteria to be established by the secretary of transportation. Suggested criteria include raising the legal drinking age to 21, impounding vehicles of convicted drunk drivers, establishing a state-wide driver record-keeping system, and providing programs of education and rehabilitation.

The Baptist World

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Published Since 1877

JACKSON MISSISSIPPI, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1982

Volume CVI, Number 36

"Practical ministries"

New Baptist group organizes, concerned with social issues

By Craig Bird

CHARLOTTE, N. C. (BP)—Southern Baptists seeking support and fellowship from "like-minded" pastors and laymen more concerned with major social issues than the political struggles within the Southern Baptist Convention got together Oct. 3-5.

More than 100 people from as far away as Texas and New York gathered in Charlotte for "a seminar on practical ministries for Southern Baptists" focusing on economic justice, women's rights, and peacemaking.

The "Theology Is A Verb" conference was hosted by St. John's Baptist Church.

In informal discussion groups the conference decided on a four-point agenda, two of which may be visible at the 1984 Southern Baptist Convention in Kansas City.

An effort will be made to "get the issues of economic justice, women's

rights, and peacemaking before a much broader group in Kansas City"; and there is a possibility a national conference on Baptist women in ministry will meet during the 1984 convention.

Other agenda items included rallying Baptist support for an upcoming statement on nuclear disarmament from the United States Catholic bishops and drafting a "letter to the churches" to inform other congregations about what took place and what might happen in the future, conference participants said.

The Peacemaker, a group sponsored by Deer Park Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky., is taking the lead in seeking the most effective way to share the group's concerns with a greater cross-section of Southern Baptists according to Carman Sharp, pastor of Deer Park church.

Sharp said the conference agreed to look at what the Catholic bishops had

to say and, "in every community ask Baptists to affirm what parts of the statement they can—it would be a most unusual response for Baptists to make." Sharp also informed the conference of the need for a minimum of \$1,000 to set up a "Center on Peacemaking" at Deer Park as a peace resource center for individuals and churches seeking information on a Christian's role in peacemaking.

Members of the discussion group pledged \$500 of that amount, Sharp reported.

The push to form the women in ministry group has been "more vision than concrete until now," according to Nancy Sehested, associate minister at Oakhurst Baptist Church in Decatur, Ga., who is heading the steering committee on that project. "By the end of October we hope to have 15 or 20 people on the committee (there are four right now) and have a position paper written. Then within six months we hope to

have regional or national conferences scheduled."

Sehested said the aim was "not to fall into the trap of factionalism. We want to make the group broad enough to include all women interested in Baptist ministry but narrow enough to deal with the problems women ministers are facing in the convention."

The organizers of the meeting worked from a list of approximately 200 names and included pastors, denominational leaders, and laymen who shared common concerns according to Andy Loving of Seeds (an anti-hunger effort operated at Oakhurst church).

Loving said the group was particularly concerned the meeting not be viewed as "just another group responding to the current political controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention." Instead, he said he feels, "the political issues are important but

(Continued on page 2)

Draper group mum on private talks

By Dan Martin

DALLAS (BP)—Southern Baptist Convention President James T. Draper Jr. and eight other leaders met Oct. 5 to discuss ways to help the 13.8 million member denomination "get past the controversy we have been in."

While declining to discuss the specific details of the meeting, Draper told Baptist Press the participants "discussed inerrancy, theology, the program, the schools, education, the whole thing. It was an honest discussion of what we felt the controversy was about, why we were having problems, why we were having tensions. We talked about the Southern Baptist Convention as each of us saw it."

Meeting with Draper at the Dallas/Fort Worth Airport complex were: William Hull, pastor of First Baptist Church of Shreveport, La.; Paige Patterson, president of the Criswell Center of Biblical Studies; Adrian Rogers, past president of the SBC and pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church of Memphis, Tenn.; Fred Wolfe, president of the SBC Pastors Conference and pastor of Cottage Hill Baptist

Church in Mobile, Ala.; Roy Honeycutt, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., and Russell Dilday, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Also participating were John Sullivan, pastor of Broadmoor Baptist Church of Shreveport, and first vice president of the SBC, and Gene Garrison, pastor of First Baptist Church of Oklahoma City and second vice president of the SBC.

Declining to participate was Kenneth Chafin, pastor of South Main Baptist Church of Houston, and a leader of the moderate-conservative faction of the denomination. "He (Draper) invited me and I had intended to go. I decided for personal reasons not to participate," Chafin said, but did not amplify.

Draper said: "We had a good meeting. It was honest and candid. Everybody made strong statements. There was a willingness on the part of everybody to discuss what we had been do-

ing." He noted he had invited a small group because he "knew the smaller the group the more progress we could make."

He added the group agreed "there are points beyond which we cannot go," (but) said there is still room for negotiation.

Dilday said he was "pleased with any effort like this to get groups of people in our convention together. feel it is always helpful in a time of disagreement and tension to sit down across the table and share in an open way."

He specified he participated not as an official representative of the seminary but as an "individual."

Patterson, identified as a leader of a movement to turn the denomination to a more conservative stance, said the meeting was amicable, frank and honest. "Nobody became combative, that was a very definite plus, demonstrating widely disparate views can come together and talk."

Rogers said it was "productive and helped us to clear our minds as to how

the various ones in the room perceived the problem. I believe before we can solve the difficulties, we have got to have a clear understanding of what they are. I felt it was a worthwhile meeting."

Draper and Patterson were hesitant to label the meeting "productive," both noting it is "too soon to tell." But Patterson commented: "I feel it is productive when folks who disagree are sitting down talking."

Draper said he is planning another meeting, but with an expanded participation. "We will probably triple the number of participants," he said, noting no date has been set for such a meeting, but indicating it may be in late October or early November.

(Martin is BP news editor.)

Racial policies at heart of IRS taxation battle

By Stan Hasty

WASHINGTON (BP)—The church-state docket of the U.S. Supreme Court, which returned to the bench Oct. 4 for its 1982-83 term, is dominated by the pending conflict between the Internal Revenue Service and Bob Jones University and Goldsboro (N.C.) Christian schools over tax-exempt status for the two schools.

While the high court announced on its first day back after a traditional summer recess that it will decide on the constitutionality of a Minnesota law providing tax deductions to parents who send their children to sectarian schools, its church-state agenda features one of the most highly publicized cases in recent years, the IRS flap with Bob Jones and Goldsboro over race discrimination policies.

The tangled web clinging to the Bob Jones/Goldsboro case began in 1969 when the IRS announced, with the support of then president Richard M. Nixon, that it would thereafter deny tax exemption to schools that could not prove they did not discriminate on the basis of race.

Church groups, ranging from hardline fundamentalist to liberal establishment, protested that administrative decision vigorously.

IRS refused

IRS refused to back down. In 1976 it revoked the tax-exempt status of Bob Jones University.

Ronald Reagan promised during the 1980 campaign to reverse the IRS policy.

Last January Reagan made good on his promise when the Justice Department announced it wished to withdraw from the Bob Jones/Goldsboro case, while IRS indicated it would abandon its 12-year-old policy.

But after a massive uproar resulted in one of the first genuine crises facing his administration, Reagan took to the airwaves to announce he was sending a bill to Congress making plain no school that discriminated in its racial policies would receive tax exemption in the future.

At the Supreme Court the government entered a new request that the court decide Bob Jones-Goldsboro after all, indicating it would take the position that while IRS had exceeded

(Continued on page 2)

Volunteers did it

Voltaics read Moore, now

OUAGADOUGOU, Upper Volta (BP)—She had been told it could be done, but Nancy Strickland wasn't so sure.

Could Tennessee Baptist volunteers, who speak only English, teach Voltaics to read Moore, a language the Tennesseans had never even heard of, much less spoken?

The answer, she knows today, is yes. Since September 1981, Tennessee Baptist volunteers have taught about 170 Voltaics to read their language.

Fellow Southern Baptist missionary Norman Coad told her when she arrived in Upper Volta to begin work as a literacy missionary he had taught someone to read in a language he couldn't speak. But when the mission planned a major development project calling for Tennessee volunteers to do that, the former Georgia teacher wasn't so sure.

"Lord," she prayed, "is it possible this can be done? Do you want me to write and tell these people not to come?" His answer, she says, was yes, it could be done, so she prayed for guidance in preparing the materials and volunteers.

With the help of a Moore-speaking Voltaic she prepared a cassette tape to introduce the vowel and consonant sounds to the volunteers. She sent the tape, along with copies of a Moore primer, to the Tennessee Baptist Convention and they were passed to volunteers.

The first literacy volunteers arrived Sept. 26, 1981. For the first two days they worked together on pronunciation, use of the primer and Moore greetings and teaching directives.

The third day they went along to their assigned villages traveling by foot, moped or motorcycle. Day by day they returned excited by their students' progress.

For seven months the volunteers came, most staying a month. In eight villages they used a phonetic method which enabled them to teach sounds

(Continued on page 2)



Volunteers, like Maxine Fulghum, have taught about 170 Voltaics how to read in their own Moore language as part of a development project that also includes water resources development and agricultural, nutritional, health and evangelistic phases. Fulghum is a member of First Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn. Volunteers, who ceased operations for Upper Volta's rainy season, began traveling to the project site again in September.

Church vandalism prompts increased police watches

By Michael Tutterow
ATLANTA (BP)—Police announced stepped-up security measures for Atlanta city churches to curb increases in church vandalism and burglaries.

In a meeting with Atlanta clergy last week, police discussed the recent barrage of crimes against churches and suggested ways to curb the rash of incidents.

Police said every church would be patrolled and thoroughly checked several times daily. In addition patrol units will increase the number of spot checks on church property and will conduct random stake-outs on church premises.

A police spokesman told Baptist Press 97 incidents of church burglaries had been reported during the past four months with 22 of the incidents involving Baptist churches. The number of crimes against churches has more than doubled over the same period last year.

The attacks prompted allegations from at least one Baptist minister that the incidents stemmed from an organized assault on churches.

Last week vandals overturned sanctuary furniture and 62 pews and shattered seven glass door panes at Second-Ponce de Leon Baptist Church causing an estimated \$20,000 in damage. There are no reported suspects.

Vandals broke into Wieuca Road Baptist Church overturning furniture and scattering papers throughout an assistant minister's office. Two days later a maintenance worker discovered two 25-year-old loiterers sleeping in the church's sanctuary. A war-

Concerned with Social issues

(Continued from page 1)
they are dissipating so much energy other important things are going undone. The issues of the Charlotte conference have a different priority in the churches from which members attended than they have in the convention as a whole. We wanted to find a way to support the churches that want to do something about hunger, peace, and women's rights."

Another motivation was a need for fellowship with "like-minded churches," according to Glen Hinson, a Southern Baptist Theological Seminary professor who delivered the keynote address Monday evening. "These were bright people from churches with financial resources and a great potential for doing good," Hinson said. "But there was a great deal of talk about various churches going their own way and forgetting the Southern Baptist Convention because they feel isolated. They felt a need to hold hands."

Hinson's address, "One Baptist's Dream—a convention that is truly evangelistic, truly Catholic, and truly Baptist," was a call for churches to remain in the convention and help make others aware of their concerns and ministries.

A second conference will meet Oct. 6-8, 1983, at Morningside Baptist Church in Atlanta.

(Bird is BP feature editor.)

MC-Clarke merger completed

(Continued from page 1)
the Newton campus, it will be possible for a student to enroll as a freshman and complete his four years of undergraduate education there.

The tuition at Clarke College at this time is \$52 per semester hour. For the fall term at Mississippi College the enrollment is 3,257. This is up from the 3,100 of last year. The tuition there is \$75 per semester hour, and the audit for the 1981-82 fiscal year notes that Mississippi College operated in the black, which has been the case since 1932.

Enrollment at Blue Mountain College is 352. President Harold Fisher reported. This is four less than the 356 of last year. Tuition at Blue Mountain is \$60 per semester hour.

The college's Eighties Forward Fund has received \$500,000 and there is reason to believe the goal of \$700,000 will be realized, he said.

William Carey College will launch a \$2 million development campaign on Jan. 1, 1983, as authorized by the Mississippi Baptist Convention. The fall student body numbers 2,943. Ralph Noonkester, president, reported. This is an increase from the 2,782 of last year. The tuition at William Carey is \$73 per semester hour.

William Carey operates three campuses: the main campus at Hattiesburg, William Carey College on the Coast at Gulfport, and the school of nursing at New Orleans. Noonkester reported that daytime enrollment is increasing at the coast campus, where emphasis has been on evening courses.

A. J. Comfort of Brandon was elected secretary to fill the unexpired term in that office of James Scirrat, who left the pastorate of Woodland Hills Church, Jackson, to assume the pastorate of Polytechnic Church, Fort Worth, Tex.

Joe Tuten, pastor of Calvary Church, Jackson, is chairman.

rant has been issued for their arrest. Police denied the incidents were related and assured clergy members of new measures to increase security for church properties.

Jim Neyland, minister of education and administration at Second-Ponce de Leon Baptist Church, said Atlanta police had already surveyed church property and planned to submit a written proposal for increasing church security. "Our staff will meet about their recommendations and will act as soon as possible," said Neyland.

Though Neyland expressed sadness about the damage done to the church's sanctuary, he said the incident had drawn church members together in a "spirit of unity."

"We also feel the police and the churches are going to unite in a cooperative spirit and a lot of good is going to come out of this," added Neyland.

Wieuca Road Baptist Church staff also remained optimistic despite the break-in at the church. Ken Wright, minister to youth, said the break-in at his office appeared to be a "very deliberate kind of action," but added he saw no connection between the incidents at Wieuca and Second-Ponce de Leon. The church intends to increase responsibilities of security personnel.

Wright hopes stepping up security through church participation in neighborhood watch programs will increase church awareness of community needs.

"The incident has reinforced our mission as a church," said Wright, and "pointed out the need to have a stronger impact on the community. When things like this happen it sharpens my perspective of our church being an agent in our community to effect positive change."

(Tutterow writes for the Home Mission Board.)

Mississippi Baptist Convention

(Continued from page 1)

SECOND SESSION: Monday Night, November 8

6:50	Musical Praise	Mississippi Hand Bells
7:00	Call to Worship	
	Congregational Praise	Dan Hall
	Scripture	Jerry Lee Kennedy, Wesson
	Prayer	Mrs. Alex McKeigney
7:10	Bible Treasure	Brian Harbour
7:25	Recognition of Missionaries	
	Home	Carl Savell
	Foreign	Gene Triggs
7:40	Testimony	
7:50	Message in Song	Singing Churchmen
8:05	Partnership Missions	
	State Convention Program	Earl Kelly
9:00	Benediction	

RECEPTION HONORING MISSIONARIES, BAPTIST BUILDING

THIRD SESSION: Tuesday Morning, November 9

8:50	Musical Praise	
9:00	Call to Worship	
	Congregational Praise	Rick Munn
	Scripture	Sammy Crawford
	Prayer	Dan Hembree
9:10	Message in Song	Graham Smith
9:20	Bible Treasure	Brian Harbour
9:35	Business Presentation	
	Presentation of Resolutions	
	Election of Convention President	
9:50	Report of Christian Action Commission	Paul Jones, III
10:10	Congregational Praise	Rick Munn
10:15	Reports of Committees	
	Nominations	
	Time, Place, Preacher	
10:20	Business Session	
	Report of Convention Board	
	Adoption of Budget	
	Miscellaneous Business	
10:50	Report from Board of Ministerial Education	
10:55	Report from Baptist Foundation	
11:00	Testimony	J. M. Wood
11:10	Congregational Praise	Joyful Sounds
11:15	Message in Song	Harold C. Bennett
11:25	Sermon	
11:55	Benediction	

FOURTH SESSION: Tuesday Afternoon, November 9

1:50	Musical Praise	
2:00	Call to Worship	
	Congregational Praise	Bob Waldrop
	Scripture	James Webster
	Prayer	Margaret McArthur
2:10	Bible Treasure	Brian Harbour
2:25	Election of Convention Officers	
	First Vice President	
	Second Vice President	
	Recording Secretary	
	Associate Recording Secretary	
2:35	Report from Education Commission	
	Report from Children's Village	
3:15	Testimony	
3:25	Message in Song	Cherry Dunn
3:35	Sermon	William G. Tanner
4:10	Benediction	

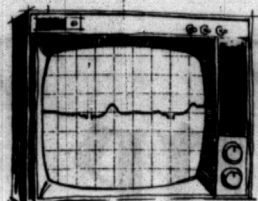
FIFTH SESSION: Tuesday Night, November 9

6:50	Musical Praise	
7:00	Call to Worship	
	Congregational Praise	Jimmy Cutrell
	Scripture	Mrs. Crawley Stubblefield
	Prayer	Ray Brooks, Pascagoula
7:10	Bible Treasure	Brian Harbour
7:25	Congregational Praise	Jimmy Cutrell
7:30	Testimony	
7:40	Convention in Worship	
	Music	
	Sermon	Sanctuary Choir
		First Baptist Church
		Gulfport
		Jim Keith, pastor
		First Baptist Church
		Gulfport

SIXTH SESSION: Wednesday Morning, November 10

8:50	Musical Praise	
9:00	Call to Worship	
	Congregational Praise	Steve Huey
	Scripture	Ted Shepherd
	Prayer	Dexter Ware
9:10	Message in Song	Steve Huey
9:15	Bible Treasure	Brian Harbour
9:30	Miscellaneous Business and Reports	
	"Video" Report	
	Report from Mississippi Baptist Seminary	
	Report of Resolutions Committee	
	Memorial Service	
10:05	Congregational Praise and	
	Message in Song	David and Laura Prevost
10:15	Message	
10:40	Church Minister Relations Report	
10:50	Church Growth Report	
11:00	Testimony	
11:10	Message in Song	Clarke College Choir
11:20	Benediction	R. Keith Parks
11:50	ADJOURN	

Accompanists: Eva Hart, Pianist
Becky Payne, Organist
Convention President: James F. Yates



Intensive care

Dedicated to strengthening families
Directed by a team of family life specialists

The family and T.V.

Dear Intensive Care:

In our home we have a constant hassle over television viewing, especially that of our children. Any suggestions? F.N.B.

Harry Hollis of the Christian Life Commission, SBC, speaking before the Southern Baptist Convention on this subject, said several significant things. Among them, "Warning: Television may be dangerous to your moral health" and "The Christian's T.V. guide is the Word of God."

It is true that T.V. has become the surrogate parent in many homes, and what kind of models do the children see? The models depicted often dehumanize people, present alcohol and drug culture in attractive ways, magnify family instability, grasping materialism, sexual perversion, obscenity, vulgarity, and violence as an acceptable way of life. Even so-called "religious programs" baptize entertainment and show business values. The influence of T.V. is debated. On the one hand, the producers say it does not influence people in moral choices. On the other, they sell commercials on the grounds that people will be persuaded to buy the sponsor's product.

The Christian Life Commission SBC

and the Christian Action Commission in Mississippi has long led the way in methods Christian families may use to cope with the T.V. menace to family life. Among the suggestions they have given are these: Make T.V. an ally instead of an enemy (1) Do not allow it to dominate your life or that of your children. Set a positive example in T.V. watching. (2) Monitor programs to see what is suitable for children and avoid using it as a baby sitter. (3) Decide on how much time your children may spend watching T.V. during the week. Families may watch some programs together to learn about issues encountered in life and/or to counter some of the false philosophies being taught. (4) Discuss commercials with your children. (5) Decide where to place the T.V. set or sets in your home, and remember each one has a knob for off/on and a channel change device. (6) Express your approval or disapproval of both programs and commercials. Write or call your local station manager, the sponsor, or both. (7) Substitute for T.V. other activities enjoyed by the family that contribute to a more wholesome and balanced family life.

Send inquiries to Intensive Care, Baptist Record, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

Seminary student changed ways, goes home as pastor

(Continued from page 1)

says Brown. "I broke down in tears." He gave the woman the \$15 he had in his pocket, recalling that he'd never given money away before.

"That's when I started seeking God. I went out on Lake Ferguson to pray." He owned a Bible, "but it was dusty." He started reading in the Book of Genesis but says it made no sense. Asking God to help him understand, he says God inspired him to read Bible helps and the Living Bible along with his King James.

"I began to understand myself more—how rotten I was—the Lord told me to join a church," he says. Then he met some elderly women in a Seventh Day Adventist Church who began to show him love and affection. Old friends dropped away and the women even said they'd help him find a wife. At a camp meeting, former rhythm and blues singer Little Richard preached and told how he'd changed his life through Christ. "That was encouraging to me," says Brown.

MBC committee nominees named

Nominees for election to membership on six committees of the Mississippi Baptist Convention have been released by the convention's Committee on Committees, which is charged with making the nominations.

R. Raymond Lloyd, pastor of First Church, Starkville, is chairman of the Committee on Committees. Other members are John Causey, pastor of First Church, Corinth; Frank Gunn, pastor of First Church, Biloxi; and Robert Self, pastor of First Church, Brookhaven.

Nominees for the Resolutions Committee are John Barnes, chairman; Bill Baker; John Harper; Mrs. Larry Otis; James Street; R. R. Sugg; and Beverly Tinnin. Harper, Mrs. Otis, and Sugg are lay persons.

Three men who have been serving temporarily with the Committee on Order of Business are being nominated to complete the unexpired terms for which they were appointed until the convention. They are John Armistead and Bob Hanvey for two-year terms and Ervin Brown for a one-year term. Being nominated for three-year terms are Larry Kennedy and George McFadin. Joe McKeever is continuing to serve on the committee with one more year to go.

Being nominated for the Committee on Nominations are John McCall, chairman; Bartis Harper; Mrs. Vincent Scoper Jr.; Charles Stubblefield; and Larry Thornton. Mrs. Scoper and Thornton are lay persons.

For the Committee on Constitution and By-laws the nominees are David Hall, chairman; Nathan Barber; Alan Day; Bradley Pope; and Mrs. Charles Tyler. Mrs. Tyler is a lay person.

Robert Jackson and Dan Thompson will be nominated for three-year terms on the Baptist Record Advisory Committee. This committee elects its own officers. Already elected with another year to serve are Marcus Finch and James Jackson. Otis Henderson and Tom Hudson have served one year of three-year terms.

To be nominated for the Time, Place and Preacher Committee are Joe Tuten, chairman; Joel Haire; Ken Marler; Bobby Perry; and Norris Stampley. Stampley is a lay person.

Human improvement from within outward.—Froude.

Every one is as God made him, and often a great deal worse.—Cervantes—Don Quixote.

Racial policies at heart . . .

(Continued from page 1)

its authority under the law in revoking and denying the schools' tax exemption, the institutions had no constitutional grounds to support their policies.

The case was to be argued Oct. 12 with a decision expected no sooner than the end of the year or perhaps as late as next spring.

By deciding to hear the Minnesota tax deduction case the court signaled its willingness to face head-on once again the thorny constitutional problem of how much and what kind of public aid may flow to parochial schools.

The contested Minnesota law provides annual state income tax deductions of \$500 and \$700 respectively for each child enrolled in elementary and secondary church-related schools. It has been upheld by the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals.

The high court will reopen church-state arguments aired in 1973 when in Committee for Public Education vs. Nyquist, a 6-3 majority struck down a New York law providing tuition tax credits against state income taxes owed.

Proponents of parochial aid will argue the Minnesota law is fundamentally different from the stricken New York statute in that tax deductions do not represent as direct a form of assistance as do tax credits.

In other church-state actions taken on its first day back on the bench the high court:

—Refused to grant a petition to a McLean, Va., woman who sought to block payment of salaries to chaplains of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives (82-112, In re Anne Neamon);

—Declined to disturb a California court's ruling that a former member of a Jewish congregation which dismissed its rabbi may take the congregation to court over the dismissal action (82-96, Sinai Temple vs. Superior Court of California for County of Los Angeles);

—Let stand a lower court ruling that Herbert J. Armstrong's Ambassador College was legally obligated to disclose detailed financial information in a suit brought by the sole heir of a woman the heir claimed was unduly and fraudulently influenced to deed over a piece of property to the school shortly before her death (82-136 Ambassador College vs. Geotzke);

—Left in place a Louisiana blue law exempting grocery and drug stores but not hardware stores from Sunday closing laws despite substantial overlap in their inventories (81-2299, Harry's Hardware, Inc. vs. Parsons).

(Hastey writes for The Baptist Joint Committee.)

Voltaics read Moore, now

(Continued from page 1)

and syllables and show how the syllables form words. Moore, says Strickland, is very conducive to that approach. The volunteers taught in churches where they existed. In villages that had no churches the villagers built classrooms with walls of grass mats. There were no desks. Each student had a board on which to place his writing notebook.

One volunteer from the first group, Sarah Davis of Nashville, returned home and began leading orientation sessions for each group of volunteers preparing to teach literacy.

Another, Melba Avera of Kingston, Tenn., took a leave of absence from her second grade teaching position to stay almost eight months. At the end of August she returned again to Upper Volta. She has taken another leave of absence to direct the literacy program during 1982-83 while Strickland is in the United States for furlough.

100% MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT

Enrollment now available at 65 or over.

Guaranteed renewable.

Pre-existing conditions covered after 6 months.

AT LAST!

A policy that pays 100% of what Medicare does not pay for hospital and 100% of usual and customary charges of the area for doctors in hospital—not just Medicare allowable charges.

NOW only ONE Medicare Supplement needed and ONE claim form to complete.

Pays 100% of usual and customary charges of the area in doctor's office, clinic, or out patient after \$75.00 deductible.

Also pays benefits for nurse and nursing home.

(If on Medicaid, do not reply)

For full information phone 956-3992 or fill out coupon and mail to:

PORTER INSURANCE AGENCY
P.O. Box 16849, Jackson, MS 39206

Name _____ Age _____
Street _____
City _____ State _____
Phone _____ Zip _____

BR1

Fire guts Jerusalem church, Begin, others send regrets.

By Elizabeth Smith and Bill Webb

JERUSALEM (BP)—A fire, which authorities suspect was started by an arsonist, swept through West Jerusalem Baptist Church about midnight Oct. 7 leaving three walls standing but gutting the chapel's interior.

Baptist House, a two-story stone structure adjacent to the church, received limited fire damage, minor smoke and water damage and broken windows. The center houses a bookstore and classrooms where the church holds Sunday School. It also functions as a meeting place for Baptists in the city.

No figures were available on the dollar loss in the fire.

The fire and the possibility of arson drew sympathetic response from virtually all levels of government in Israel, including Prime Minister Menachem Begin, who was quoted on radio in Israel as deploring the fire.

"If it was arson and if it was committed by Jews it was a crime that must be investigated and dealt with," Begin said.

Yosef Burg, Israel's minister of the interior, police and religious affairs, came by Baptist House the morning after the fire and told reporters, "This act shows a greater spiritual problem than a physical problem. You can always rebuild a building but it is very difficult to renew confidence between people."

Jerusalem's mayor Teddy Kollek, who was in Europe, called Robert Lindsey, a Southern Baptist representative and pastor of the church, to express his concern about the fire. A municipal deputy came to the scene and affirmed the city's support of a building permit when the church decides to rebuild.

The church's pastoral council which meets every Friday morning to pray did that in spite of the fire, praying for forgiveness for whoever was responsible, thanking God no one was injured

and asking for guidance for the future of the church.

The group expressed concern that the suspected arson not be misinterpreted as the attitude of the Jewish people as a whole and thus become a source of anti-semitism.

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board holds title to the property. The board, which owns property in most of the 96 countries where it has work, acts as its own insurer and does not carry fire insurance on overseas structures.

(Smith is a missionary to Israel; Webb is a news writer for the FMB.)

Nine churches plan handbell participation

Thus far nine churches have registered for participation in Mississippi's first Senior Adult Choir and Handbell Festival to be conducted Nov. 15-19 in four locations.

John Hambery and Perry Robinson, who are adult and handbell specialists with the Mississippi Church Music Department, will conduct these festivals to be located at Harrisburg Church, Tupelo; First Church, Greenwood; First Church, Gulfport; and Calvary Church, Jackson, on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Beginning time in each location is 1 p.m.

Fairview Church, Columbus, is registered for participation at Tupelo. No registrations have been received for the festival at Greenwood to date. At Gulfport, First Church, Pascagoula; Petal-Harvey Church; and First Church, Picayune, are scheduled to participate.

The festival in Jackson has the largest number pre-registered: First Church, Crystal Springs; First Church, Brookhaven; First Church, Clinton; Ridgecrest, Jackson; and Highland, Meridian.

Registration will remain open until the date of the festival.

Mt. Zion Indian church plans open house

Open House and dedication of Mt. Zion Indian Church at Carthage will be Oct. 16 at 2 p.m. Oktibbeha Baptist Association has been sponsor of the project aided by men from Leake Association, W.M.U. members from both

associations will be furnishing refreshments.

Clay Gibson is pastor of the Indian congregation. Jim Vance, pastor of Calvary Church in Starkville and moderator from Oktibbeha Association, will deliver the dedication address.

Olyn F. Roberts, pastor of Morgan Chapel Church, Sturgis, has been directing the project.

Off The Record

Jerry Mixon tells this. In a Sunday School class the teacher was letting the kids describe what the church workers do. She asked what deacons do. One little boy piped up, "That's when your mommy and daddy beat the deacons out of you."

Johnny: Mother's Bible must be more interesting than yours.

Father: Why do you say that?

Johnny: She reads it more than you read yours.

Others on the program include Earl Craig, pastor of First Church, Jackson; James Barry, on the Church Administration staff of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville; Guy Henderson, Evangelism department director of the MBCB; and James Beasley, minister of music at First Church, Crystal Springs.

Sessions with McLeod include "Biblical Preaching from the Parables," and "Legitimate Shortcuts in Sermon Preparation."

Registration fee will be \$10 which pays for materials and a meal. To register, write, Leon Emery, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205.

Sensational New Book!

CHARISMATIC THEOLOGY UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

To order, send \$5.00 each

John R. Bisagno
First Baptist Church
P. O. Box 55158
Houston, Texas 77255

OLD BIBLES REBOUND

A price, binding and style to meet every need. Quality workmanship guaranteed. Write for illustrated price folder.

"Internationally known specialists"

NORRIS BOOKBINDING CO.
Box 305-C - Greenwood, Miss. 38930

WORLD'S LARGEST MANUFACTURER OF FIBERGLASS CHURCH PRODUCTS

- STEEPLES
- WALL CROSSES
- STAINED FIBERGLASS WINDOWS
- BAPTISTRIES
- BAPTISTRY HEATERS

Write for free color brochure

Fiberglass Specialties

A/C 214 657-6522 Box 210 Henderson Texas 75652



Overseas volunteers

Woody and Claressa Rustin of Rocky Creek, Miss., work together on a painting job for the Baptist mission at Ajloun, Jordan. The couple were part of a work team of volunteers who are employed by the Arab-American Oil Company in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. The team volunteered its painting services to missions and private institutions in the area. They paid their own expenses. (FMB) PHOTO BY ALTA LEE LOVEGREN.

Salem pastor dies

Thomas Byron Kornegay, 59, died Tuesday, Oct. 5, in Neshoba General Hospital. Funeral service was at 2 p.m., Oct. 7, at Nowell Funeral Home Chapel with burial in Cedar Lawn Cemetery.

Kornegay, a native of Oktibbeha County, was pastor of the Salem Baptist Church, Kemper County, and was manager of Farm Services, Inc. in Philadelphia. He was a Marine Corps veteran of World War II.

Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Tommie Kornegay; daughters, Elaine Jones of Philadelphia, Peggy Callahan of Carthage, and Gail Derting of Minden, La.; sons, Danny Kornegay, Columbus, James Tucker, Jackie Tucker, and Thomas Allen Kornegay, all of Philadelphia, and Johnny Tucker of Enda, Tex.; two sisters; one brother; and eight grandchildren.

Church music emphasis urges keyboard clinics

By Dot Pray, keyboard specialist

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

The Church Music special emphasis for 1982-83 is "Reaching People Through Instrumental Music." In support of this emphasis, the Church Music department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, is encouraging each association in Mississippi to provide a Pedalpoint Clinic/Class for the church organists and church pianists in their association.

Why Pedalpoint Clinic/Class? A concern that church keyboard musicians be better equipped to reach people through instrumental music.

What are the objectives? (1) For church organists and pianists to gain understanding essential to improve service playing and accompanying. (2) For church organists and pianists to improve presentation skills. (3) For church organists and pianists to be in-

troduced to and to evaluate basic keyboard resource materials.

For further information contact Dot Pray, Church Music department, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205, telephone 968-3800.

Pedalpoint Clinics scheduled for October - November, 1982: Covington association, Oct. 12, Lone Star Baptist Church, 7-9 p.m. George and Greene associations, Nov. 4, First Church, Lucedale, 7-9:30 p.m. Hinds-Madison association, November 6, Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Earth changes, but thy soul and God stand sure.—Browning—Rabbi Ben Ezra.

Sir, I would rather be right than be President.—Henry Clay.

EXPOSITORY SERMONS FROM FIRST PETER

By Dr. Charles L. Nail

- *Complete sermon texts
- *Excellent word studies
- *Prepared for and preached to a Baptist church
- \$9.95 per set during October

- *Usable outlines
- *Thirty-two sermons in two volumes
- *\$10.95 if ordered later

Kelly Publications, Crofton, Kentucky 42217

Medicare Supplement

Policy Form MC-78
Helps pay what Medicare doesn't pay
Benefits start from first day (Optional) — Guaranteed renewable
Pays in addition to Medicare or any insurance you may have

Benefits For:

- Hospital entrance fees
- Doctors fees
- Private room expense
- Registered nurse

- Blood transfusions
- Ambulance
- Nursing Home
- Extended stay

Also available

- Hospital surgical Form 801 and major medical Form 802
- Guaranteed issue life — No health questions

For full information fill out coupon and mail to:

OLD SOUTHERN PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION
P. O. Drawer 2157 703 Hi-Way 80 West
Clinton, MS 39056
(601) 924-1119

Name _____ Age _____
Street _____
City _____ State _____
Phone _____ Zip _____

Underwritten by Old Southern Life Insurance Co., Montgomery, Ala.

Devotional

An attitude of gratitude

By Larry Black
minister of music, First, Jackson

Joe Triplett was the first person I heard use this phrase. For a lot of years Joe was the much loved minister of pastoral care at our First Baptist Church in Jackson. Joe died of cancer in March of 1980. The last 12 months Joe knew he was dying, and this four word phrase was a reality in his life even in his life's greatest test. This poem taken from Perry Tanksley's book, *A Gift of Gratitude*, expresses this feeling "One thing I seek, Lord, please impart: Just one thing more, a grateful heart. How vain are words of gratitude without a thankful attitude." The Bible gives us a key to attitudes in Proverbs 23:7, "as a man thinketh in his heart so is he."

Another key could well be, voice your gratitude to others. So often we are the recipients of the kindness and love of people without expressing to them our gratitude for what they have done. We can become the things we think and talk about.

Therefore, think and speak gratitude and thanks.

Think and Speak Well of Yourself. Martin Le Boef, professor and widely read author says, "You are better than you think." So often we don't give ourself the credit we deserve. When you do something well don't hesitate to congratulate yourself just as you would someone else. Often people you meet have a "false" humility and can never accept a compliment from others. They are constantly putting themselves down. This drags down their self-esteem. When you achieve a good reward yourself, look up and remember, you are one for whom Christ died.

Think and Speak Well of Others. Mr. Chambers was the principal of our little rural elementary school in Duck Springs, Alabama. He was also my sixth grade teacher and a deacon in the church where I was saved and baptized. One of the things he was well known for was always speaking well of everyone. Someone tried to trap him one day. As I remember it as an eleven year old boy it made a great impression on my life. There was a terrible man in our community—he made moonshine whiskey, grumbled, beat his wife, and didn't provide for his children. He was just a *sot*. Another man was discussing our local moonshine expert with Mr. Chambers and said, "Now Chambers, I bet you can't tell me one good thing about ole 'so & so'." Mr. Chambers hesitated a minute and then said, "He sure can whistle good." People will react to us so often in the way we regard them. If we as ministers encourage, commend and uplift our people, they will more nearly follow our leadership. The reverse may also be true.

Think and Speak Often of the Lord's Blessings. One of my favorite scriptures is Psalms 103:1 & 2: "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget none of His benefits." It is difficult to say that scripture out loud and not smile.

To paraphrase an old hymn "count your many blessings, name them ton by ton—and it will surprise you what the Lord has done."

Every Christian realizes he or she has a mission in this life. As we hold ourself in proper esteem, love, encourage and build up other believers and thank God for his many blessings, we can with gladness carry out that mission.

Black

Revival Dates

Providence (Bolivar): Oct. 24-26; William Sasser, pastor, Grace Baptist Church, Franklin, Tenn., evangelist; special music by Mr. and Mrs. Sasser; dinner on the grounds Oct. 24, with singing to follow.

Eastabuchie Church: Oct. 18-20; services at 7:30 p.m.; Joe H. Royalty, Jackson, evangelist; Don Burch, church music director, leading the singing; R. B. Reynolds, pastor.

Calvary, Meridian: Oct. 17-20; Freddie Gage, evangelist for the "Go Tell" crusade; Bobby James, music evangelist; Sunday at 9:45 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon., Tues., Wed. at 7 p.m. (Wed., free pizza party for youths, grades 7-12—must have free ticket to attend); W. Otis Seal, pastor.

Preaching conferees will hear new state pastor

A Preaching Conference in December will feature a new Mississippi pastor, Peter McLeod.

Southside Church in Jackson will host the preaching conference, Dec. 13-14 which is sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries department, Leon Emery, director.

McLeod is pastor of First Church, Hattiesburg. He came to Mississippi this year from the pastorate of First Church, Chattanooga.

Homecomings

Friendship Church, Aberdeen: homecoming; Oct. 24; Wendell Callahan, former pastor, bringing the morning message; lunch, fellowship, and singing to follow the lunch at 12; singing at 1; no evening service; O. E. Langner, Jr., pastor.

Eastabuchie Church: homecoming; 99th anniversary; Oct. 17; Joe H. Royalty, Jackson, guest speaker at 11 a.m. service; covered dish lunch at the church; special song service, 1:30-3 p.m., featuring the Bible Echoes, gospel music group; R. B. Reynolds, pastor.

Brewer Church (Perry): homecoming; Oct. 17; John Henry, former pastor, speaking at 11 a.m. service; dinner on the grounds; afternoon service at 1:15; Donnie Boutwell, pastor.

Calvary, Batesville: Oct. 10-13; 30th anniversary revival; J. D. Joslin, former pastor of the church for nine years, preaching; Mike Barham, minister of music and youth at Calvary, directing the music; Floyd F. Higginbotham, pastor.

Mississippi Baptist Activities

Oct. 17-20 **Nation-Wide Bold People Search (SS Emphasis)**
OCTOBER — COOPERATIVE PROGRAM MONTH (Stewardship Emphasis)

Oct. 22-23 **State Youth Music and Music Drama Seminar;** Broadmoor BC, Jackson; 6:30 p.m., 21st - Noon, 22nd (CM)

Oct. 22-23 **Mississippi Media Library Workshop;** FBC, Hattiesburg; 1 p.m. 22nd - 1 p.m., 23rd (SS)

Some kids would rather die than bring home grades like these.

In the next hour, 57 American kids will try to kill themselves. Many over problems that may seem small to adults. But to children, even little things can be matters of life and death.

Grades that weren't quite high enough. A broken date. A game that wasn't won. One more reason for feeling they've failed to measure up. To others' expectations. Or their own.

Suicide is the second leading cause of death among young people. But it's preventable. If only someone recognizes the danger signals in time.

Sudden changes in eating and sleeping habits. Withdrawal from friends and activities. Becoming accident prone. Talking about being "gone" or "better off dead." The most dangerous sign of all is making final arrangements — giving away favorite records, books or other treasured possessions.

And don't think kids who talk about suicide won't try it. They will.

As a parent, the most important thing you can do is show you care.

Ask your children about their feelings. And listen to what they have to say. Without making judgments.

If you're concerned about self destructive behavior, call your local suicide prevention, mental health or crisis center. Professional counseling can help suicidal

children, and their families, learn better ways of dealing with problems.

One of the tragedies of youth suicide is that children just don't always understand. That problems are temporary. And death is permanent. They're not experienced enough to realize their options. So some of them choose the way that should not be an option at all. And some of them don't live to regret it.

LIBERTY NATIONAL
LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

For a free brochure on youth suicide and what you can do to prevent it, write Liberty National, Advertising Dept. RP, P.O. Box 2612, Birmingham, Alabama 35202.

Editorials

What next on Sunday?

It may be that Vince Dooley, head football coach for the University of Georgia, was not giving a great deal of thought to spiritual matters when he declined to play the University of Mississippi on Sunday in order to have television coverage. He did refuse, however, and we compliment him on that decision.

The fact is, as would be easy to understand, television coverage of a football game brings in a great deal of money; and so it is a very attractive opportunity.

According to news reports, Steve Sloan, the Ole Miss coach, did want to play the game on Sunday, as was suggested by a television network, in order to be a recipient of the monetary gains. Hopefully he has had an opportunity for second thoughts and is happy that things did not work out that way.

Admittedly, in the secular world, if the secular and the sacred can be divided (it's all God's world), there is no particular spiritual reason for observing Sunday as a day of worship. Humans need a day of rest, and one out of seven seems to be a pretty good norm for that; but from the secular perspective, it doesn't necessarily need to be on Sunday. There's no consideration of a time of worship on the day of rest from that standpoint.

If the game had been played on Sunday, of course, it either would have cut out the day of rest or would have cut down on the time of preparation for the next game.

All of that is beside the point, of course. The offer was made, and it was refused by the Georgia coach after the Mississippi coach had asked that the offer be accepted.

The real problem is not so much

whether this particular game was played or was not played on Sunday but that Sunday has become an ordinary day for college sports contests. Thankfully, some Baptist Colleges have refused to play baseball on Sunday, but Sunday baseball for colleges is a common experience now. Sunday college basketball has become commonplace.

Is there even any reason to complain about the fact that Sunday has become such an ordinary day for college sports? Is there any reason that such a condition should bother us?

Yes. Admittedly, the people who are playing may not, in some cases, have anything better to do; but that is not the case with all of the players. Some of the finest of Christian young people are on college sports teams. Such deprives them of their first priority on

Sunday, and that is worship.

The thing that should bother us most, however, is that we have lost our influence to the point that it would be thought profitable to have college sports contests on Sunday. This is a continuation of the erosion of the concept of Sunday by secular concerns; and to a great degree, the Christian community is not standing idly by at all. It is supportive of the activities that play a part in the erosion.

We do indeed appreciate the fact that Coach Dooley turned down the offer of a televised game in order not to play on Sunday. If all of the Baptists stayed away from such a game, however, there wouldn't be much of a crowd there.

They play football whether there is a crowd present or not. If all of the Baptists stayed out of the stores on Sunday, they would be closed.

by don mcgregor

Gratitude on postage matters

The continuing resolution passed by Congress at the deadline Sept. 30 to keep the federal government funded until Dec. 17, had in it the funding necessary to keep postage rates at their present level until the resolution runs out. The present level is at Step 13.

In 1971 the U.S. Postal Service put in motion a phase-out program to gradually end a subsidy program that had been in effect for more than 100 years. The subsidy for mailing second-class, nonprofit publications was to be gradually eliminated in 16 steps. It was to end in 1987.

On Jan. 10, 1982, when we were at Step 10, the program ended abruptly; and we went to Step 16. Postage rates more than doubled.

The Baptist Record began to sustain tremendous losses because of sharply increased postage rates, but we didn't raise subscription prices at the time. The hope was always just before us that the rates would be rolled back as one continuing resolution after another was passed to keep the government funded in the absence of a budget for fiscal year 1982.

It finally happened for the last two months of the fiscal year, August and September; but now we're starting all over again. There is no budget for fiscal year 1983, already in progress. When the postage costs were rolled back for August and September, however, they didn't go back to Step 10 where they had been. They went to Step 13. That's where we are now.

We don't know what will happen after Dec. 17. We must give credit to the valiant efforts of three men, however, who have held out for funding that would keep us from being inundated with postage costs. They are John Stennis and Thad Cochran in the Senate and Jamie Whitten in the House. They are all Mississippians and all very influential in postage matters. Stennis and Cochran are both

members of the influential Appropriations Committee in the Senate. Whitten is chairman of the same committee in the House.

When we raised subscription rates in July, we didn't know that postage rates were about to go down to some degree. We still don't know how long the lower rates will last. But we have a debt of gratitude to these three men, whatever the outcome.

Sixty days — not 30

An editorial in the Baptist Record issue of Sept. 30 titled "Can We Talk Together?" mentioned that Southern Baptist Convention President Jimmy Draper has asked Charles Stanley of Atlanta, chairman of the SBC Commit-

tee on Boards, Commissions, and Standing Committees to release the names of the committee's nominees 30 days in advance of the convention next June in Pittsburgh. The figure should have been 60 days.—Editor

Guest opinion . . .

Threats to the Cooperative Program

By Sam Pittman

The Cooperative Program is alive and well. This is good news to all those churches that have given generously and faithfully through the years for the propagation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The surface signs of success, however, must not lull Southern Baptists into a false sense of security. The great needs in the United States and around the world are staggering and some dangers confronting the Cooperative Program must be recognized and conquered in order to reach our objective of a great witness to the whole world by the end of this century.

Presently there are three big "I's" threatening the Cooperative Program. These are Information gap, Indifference, and Infiltration.

Information Gap. One major danger confronting increased Cooperative Program giving is an information gap. Many Baptists lack accurate information about the Cooperative Program.

How do we counteract this danger?

For one thing, we must not think that the information and communications task is completed, even after the best information and materials on the Cooperative Program have been provided. We must vitalize and personalize the needs and ministries supported through the Cooperative Program. There is no substitute for accurate information about the Cooperative Program and the ministries these funds make possible. This information may be obtained by contacting your state stewardship office or by writing to the SBC Stewardship Commission in Nashville, Tenn.

Indifference. A second menace to the Cooperative Program is indifference. Information alone will not ensure a caring response. Even an informed person can be an uncaring person.

In Jesus' parable of the good Samaritan, both the priest and the Levite saw the need; but seeing did not cause them to care enough to stop and help. Southern Baptists historically have been known as a caring people.

We have reached out in the name of Christ to touch hurting humanity and say, "We care."

The antidote for indifference is compassion. Cooperative Program ministries are largely compassionate ones. Ask the financially struggling seminary student. Ask the home missionary and some of his recent converts. Ask the foreign missionary and the church of new believers. Ask in 50 states and in 95 countries of the world. The constant reply will be "My life has been changed because someone cared."

Infiltration. A third and growing threat to the Cooperative Program is the infiltration of the church budgets by an increasing number of good causes that exclude, or diminish support for greater causes.

Every church has the responsibility to determine how it will disburse its funds and what mission causes it will support. Few churches have the resources to do all the good things that need to be done. Stewardship Committees must make selective judgments. Before developing its budget, a caring church should ask, "Does this budget worthily represent our commitment to Jesus Christ and the mission of our church?" If the biblical basis of missions becomes the criterion by which churches make budget decisions, Cooperative Program giving will increase dramatically. Bold Mission Thrust waits on renewed personal stewardship and church accountability.

With your help, Southern Baptists will rise to meet these three dangers

capsules

"Inchon" panned

WASHINGTON (EP)—The Washington Times, financially backed by the Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church, was reported Sept. 18 to have killed a critical, full-length review of the war movie "Inchon," which was produced by a Moon associate. Instead, a one paragraph review panning the movie was run.

The Unification Church reportedly had lent about \$30 million to One Way Productions, headed by Japanese businessman Mitsuharu Ishii, a church member and close associate of Moon, to complete work on the movie.

Pentecostals arrested

BRATISLAVA, Czechoslovakia (EP)—An empty Bible transport container confiscated from a German tourist may have led to the arrest of at least two Czechoslovak Pentecostals.

Rudolph Bubick, 41, and Josef Wojner, 64, both of Ceske Tesin, were taken into custody August 24 and questioned about the transport of Bibles into the country, informed sources reported to East/West News Service.

Filipino seminary

MANILA, Philippines—With 21 students enrolled, the Southern Baptist School of Theology in Manila, the Philippines, began its first classes recently at the International Baptist Church.

The new school was begun at the initiation and planning of Filipino Southern Baptists in cooperation with other theological schools conducted by the Philippine Baptist Mission. The school is the fifth theological institution in operation by Baptists in the Philippines.

TV boycott

TUPELO, Miss.—The Coalition for Better Television says that the recent decision by RCA to spend an estimated \$25 million in advertising to promote their consumer products indicates that the coalition's boycott of the company is working.

The coalition, with 2150 member

groups, has urged concerned consumers to refuse to purchase RCA products or use Hertz car or truck rentals because of the violence, profanity, sexual immorality and discrimination against Christians and other religious groups on NBC, which is owned by RCA.

\$5 million for H-SU

ABILENE, Tex. (BP)—Hardin Simmons University has received a gift which could ultimately amount to \$5 million, to establish the Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Logsdon School of Theology.

The largest single gift in the university's 91-year history was announced by Jesse C. Fletcher, HSU president. Mrs. Logsdon has set aside in deferred forms or transferred ranch land as well as mineral rights to the university property and land that could ultimately mean over \$5 million to the university endowment fund.

Charles W. Logsdon, Jr., a West Texas rancher and businessman, died last October. His wife is the former Koreen Willcox.

The pope in comics

NEW YORK (EP)—Marvel Comics, which brought the world "Spider-Man," has launched a "hero" of another kind in a new 64-page comic book detailing the life of Karol Wojtyla, better known as Pope John Paul II. The pope reportedly approved of the \$1.50, advertisement-free book, expected to be on newsstands by the end of the month.

While the tone of the comic is decidedly heroic, the pope is often depicted as a regular guy. He enjoys outdoor sports and, as archbishop of Cracow, is seen eating pizza during a visit to Rome. And in his childhood, the pope is depicted as a good student who is teased by other children for being a "mama's boy."

Not in the clamor of the crowded street, Not in the shouts and plaudits of the throng, But in ourselves, and triumph and defeat.—Longfellow, The Poets.

Missionary news

Kathy Butts, missionary journeyman to Zimbabwe, has arrived on the field to begin her two-year term of service as a secretary/bookkeeper (address: P. O. Box W-197, Waterfalls, Harare, Zimbabwe). A native of Mississippi, she was born in Jackson.

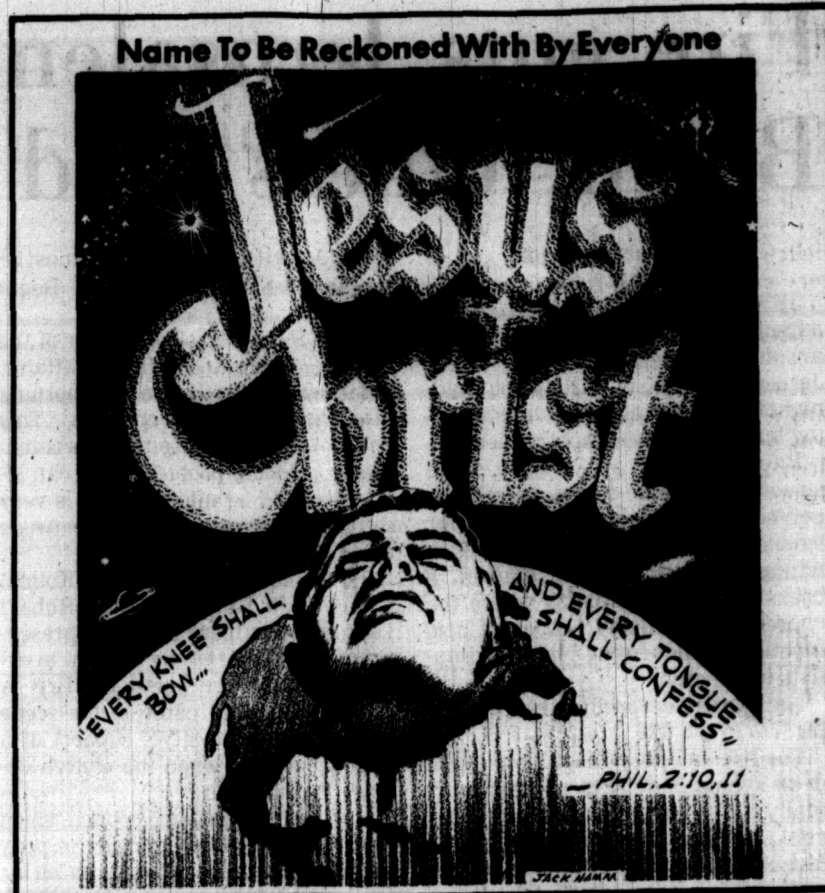
Monica Powell, missionary journeyman to Korea, has arrived on the field to begin her two-year term of service as an elementary teacher at Korea Christian Academy (address: 201-50 Jung Dong, Taejon 300, Korea). She is a native of Jackson, Miss. Before she was employed by the Foreign Mission Board in July 1982, she was an office assistant at Parkway Baptist Church, Jackson.

Robin Ficklin, missionary journeyman to Japan, has arrived on the field to begin her two-year term of service as an English conversation teacher at the Tokyo Student Center (address: 18-6-202 Kamiyama-cho, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 150, Japan). She was born in Jefferson City, Mo. Before she was employed by the Foreign Mission Board in July 1982, she was a research assistant for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration at Mississippi University for Women, Columbus.

Malcolm and Jean Nichols, missionary associates to Korea since 1977, resigned from missionary service Aug. 31. They lived in Pusan, Korea, where he served as a dentist. He is a native of Knoxville, Tenn. She was born in Meridian, Miss. They may be addressed c/o Richard Donk, 821 S. Franklin, Quincy, Fla. 32351.

Ben and Sandra Nash, missionaries to Ghana, have arrived on the field to begin their first term of service (address: Baptist Medical Centre, Nalerigu via Gambaga, Ghana). He was born in Hattiesburg, Miss., and considers Jackson, Miss., his hometown. She is the former Sandra Nobles of Clinton.

Pam Randle, missionary journeyman to Colombia, has arrived on the field to begin her two-year term of service as a youth worker (address: Apartado Aereo 101039, Bogota, Colombia). She is a native of Amory.



Faces And Places

By Anne Washburn McWilliams

"Mr. Baptist Foundation"

Harry Lee Spencer, who retired in 1967 as executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation, celebrated his 90th birthday Sept. 17. First Baptist Church, Jackson, where he is a member, recognized him at the 11 a.m. service Sept. 19. Flowers had been placed in the sanctuary in his honor and his three children, plus some grandchildren, were present: Harry Lee Spencer, Jr., Huntsville, Ala.; John Spencer, physician from Pleasanton, Tex.; near San Antonio; and Grace (Mrs. Dan) Clemson of Fort Worth, Tex.

Last month Spencer retired from teaching the T.E.L. class, a Sunday School class of the oldest women in the church (his late wife, Ethel Jenkins Spencer, was a member of it until her death); and he has taught it for many years. Ethel Dean Mahaffey is succeeding him as teacher. The class placed a book in the church library in his honor, and they and other friends gave a reception in the Family Life Center.

When "Mr. Baptist Foundation" (as BR editor Joe Odle called him in an editorial) retired, Foundation trustees gave him a reclining chair. For a long time he didn't use it much, for he stayed busy preaching—his favorite activity. (Revelation is his favorite source of texts.)

Asked by the Foundation in Mississippi to be executive secretary in 1950, he hesitated, for he and Mrs. Spencer were happy in Brownwood, Tex., where he was pastor of First Baptist Church, he recalls. "Dr. Nelson, MC president, told me if I took this new job I would be so busy I would have no time to preach. But I accepted, and preached more in the next 17 years than before or since." As a result, he

met hundreds of people, and "these contacts helped me to promote the interests of the Foundation," he said. "And many I met in churches gave money through the Foundation."

He still owns the Carroll County farm where he grew up, and rents it for soybean crops.

The pastor who baptized him at Coila Baptist Church, in his teens, immediately said, "I've baptized a preacher." This was news to Spencer. Not long afterward, though, he did feel God was calling him to preach. His pastorates in Mississippi and Texas included North Carrollton; Immanuel, Hattiesburg; College Avenue, Fort Worth; and others.

After two years at MC, he transferred to Baylor and later earned a doctorate from Southwestern Seminary and was given an honorary doctorate from Howard Payne University.

In 1918 he organized the first BSU (though it may not have been called by that name then), at Baylor University. It was in Texas that BSU got its start shortly afterward. A conference of Baptist students meeting at Palacios, Texas, in July, 1920, selected the name, Baptist Student Union. This was officially adopted at the first state BSU convention ever held—in Brownwood, Texas, that October. The next year the southwide BSU started; Frank Leavell began work as its first executive secretary Jan. 1, 1922.

Around 1935, Spencer was directing the BSU and YMCA activities on the campus of the John Tarlton Junior College at Stephenville, Tex., while pastor of a church in that area.

Now Harry Lee Spencer, at 90, has more time to sit in his reclining chair. He lives alone among his books on McTyre St. near the Millsaps campus. He reads, visits with friends, prepares his breakfast (coffee, grape juice, and instant oats), and looks backward across nine decades of accomplishments.

Letters to the Editor

Baptist burial provision

Editor:

First, for identification, let me say I am a christian by GRACE and a Baptist by choice. A senior citizen, a retired nurse, and you will find my name among your records as a lay-missionary worker beginning with our Tentmaker program and extending into Special Missions Ministries.

Second, Mr. P. C. Renshaw of Tupelo touched on one very tender spot of Baptist response in a vital, human area—Homes for senior citizens (Baptist Record Sept. 30, 1982). But, there is one other door open for consideration involving the aged and dying: FUNERAL EXPENSES.

We are discriminating whether intentionally or not. The fact is that the Cooperative Program way of giving is the best way to obey the Great Commission. But where is Baptist concern for the aged and dying member? In this we lack wisdom.

Baptists provide schools, orphanages, hospitals, special provision for the unwed mothers and alcoholics, and others. Is there nothing for the aging and dying Baptist? Our wisdom is not being applied to the fullest ends.

We are not in a race with other denominations in this matter. The truth is, we are not in it at all!

If we cannot or will not give them homes in which to spend their last days, why not set up a funeral benefit which will guarantee a simple, decent, Christian last rites? Remove family dependence so the Baptist Christian may be interred with dignity.

Baptists, whoever they are, are of the Baptist household of faith; and Jesus said: He that provideth not for his own, and especially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel (I Tim. 5:8). How guilty are we?

Mrs. Dixie L. Beard
Noxapater

Concern for the elderly

Editor:

From time to time I get an opportunity to read the Baptist Record. I always find it interesting and helpful to my Christian nurture.

I was surprised to see a reference to my agency in a recent issue (See "Letters to the Editor" 9/30/82). United Methodist Senior Services of Mississippi has been involved in a service ministry to older persons since 1961. These services have been designed to support the living arrangements of older Mississippians through facilities and services in various locations in our state. Almost one-half of those we serve are Baptists.

I would like to correct one possible misunderstanding in Mr. Renshaw's letter. We have received some federal funds to assist persons with limited resources in our facilities. But we have also raised more than a half-million dollars to assist persons with financial needs. We have used federal loan funds to construct some (not all) of our facilities. But we have also raised more than three million dollars for building purposes in 10 years from interested friends—some of them have been Baptists.

I believe that a commitment to enhance the quality of the living arrangements of God's older children is a legitimate concern of every Christian community. The needs of older Mississippians (especially those frail elderly) ought to be a high priority for all of us. A growing number of these persons are "orphans" in our society who have outlived their families or who have no family support system available. Surely these are a special concern to Christians!

Methodist Senior Services
J. W. Carroll
Executive Director

The Baptist Record

(ISSN-0005-5778)

515 Mississippi Street

Box 530

Jackson, Miss. 39205

Don McGregor

Editor

Tim Nicholas

Associate Editor

Anne McWilliams

Editorial Associate

Official Journal of

The Mississippi Baptist Convention

James Yates

President

Earl Kelly

Executive Secretary-Treasurer

The Baptist Building

Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205

Baptist Record Advisory Committee: Ferrell

Cork, Aberdeen; Marcus Finch, Meridian; vice-

chairman: Odie Henderson, Cleveland; Gary Hol-

land, Pascagoula; chairman: Tom Hudson,

Jackson; James Jackson, Columbia.

Subscriptions: \$7.25 a year payable in advance.

Published weekly except week of July 4 and

Christmas. Second Class Postage paid at Jackson, Missis-

sippi. The Baptist Record is a member of the Southern

Baptist Press Association.

Clear Springs honors pastor on 30th anniversary

Clear Springs Baptist Church, Choctaw County, honored its pastor, W. T. Holloway, Sept. 26 for his 30 years of service. He began his ministry at Clear Springs the 4th Sunday in September, 1952.

The church presented Mrs. Holloway a corsage of red roses and Holloway a red rose for his lapel. The children of the church sang "Thank You, Jesus, For Bro. Holloway." The

deacons presented from the church a money tree with an envelope of money for each year he has served as pastor. A cake was baked by a member of the church; written on it was "30 Years of faithful service." Lunch was served on the church grounds.

Holloway moved to Choctaw county from Calhoun County. He has served in Calhoun, Webster, and Choctaw counties. At age 72 he is pastor of four churches, two of them half-time.



GAs of the Delaware Valley Baptist Association gather around Dorothy Latham, Mississippi missionary to Brazil, who served as missionary-in-residence at their first camp.

Chinese Christians convene to clarify new constitution

Peking, China (EP)—Religious leaders aligned with the government here have begun open discussions about the recently drafted 1982 Constitution of the People's Republic of China. New laws governing religion and its practice were adopted. Members of the National Political Consultative Committee met in July to clarify the new statute which apparently grants a degree more religious freedom than permitted in the past, according to East/West News Service.

China's basic official attitude towards religion during the past two decades, although at times differing,

paralleled a clause in the 1954 Constitution. "Citizens have freedom of religious beliefs," it said. But when put into practice, a 1975 amendment has been more applicable. That clause read: "Citizens have the freedom not to believe in religion and the freedom to propagate atheism." Implicit was a ban on religious proselytizing.

Turning to a more practical wording in 1982, the new constitution stipulates that citizens shall not be forced to believe or not believe in religion. It further states that believers and non-believers alike shall not be discriminated against.

This remains vague, but more

State GAs send missionary to Delaware Valley GAs

The first Girls in Action camp in Delaware, Valley Baptist Association of the Pennsylvania/South Jersey Baptist Convention was held Aug. 2-6. A Mississippian served as missionary-in-residence and Mississippi GAs paid her travel expenses.

Mrs. Charles (Ina) Gordon, associational WMU director in the Delaware Valley, and a former Mississippian, said, "The camp was the culmination of several years of praying, promoting, and planning." Ruth Bailey, as-

sociational GA director, agreed to be camp director; summer missionaries would serve as counselors; and local home missionaries would speak.

"It seemed impossible to find a foreign missionary to be the missionary-in-residence," Mrs. Gordon said. But she happened to remember Mississippian Baptists, and called Marjean Patterson, executive director of the state WMU, asking for help.

Within a few days, Miss Patterson called Mrs. Gordon and told her that Dorothy Jean Latham, native of Forkville, Miss., and missionary to Equatorial Brazil, could spend the week at the Delaware Valley GA camp. Also she said that Mississippi GAs in their first week of camp at Garaywa would give their mission offering to pay Miss Latham's travel expenses. (They did.)

Mrs. Gordon said recently, "The 30 girls, grades 3-6, and their 10 leaders from Pennsylvania/South Jersey wish to thank Miss Patterson and the girls who were at Mississippi's GA camp for their love and concern for missions. Girls from the Northeast seldom have an opportunity to meet a missionary from another country, and the girls at camp will long remember the things Miss Latham shared with them. Nine girls made public commitments, but it is felt that all experienced some life-changing commitments during the week."



Newton church honors Denhams

Jack Brand, right, holds a retirement check for Hardy Denham, at left, and Mrs. Denham as the Denhams are honored by members of First Church, Newton, on the occasion of his retirement from the pastorate of the church. The Denhams had just opened a microwave oven that was presented them by the church. A reception honoring the Denhams was held at the church.

Names In The News...

Lisbon—The Portuguese Baptist Convention boosted its emphasis on youth work at its 49th annual assembly, by naming a full-time executive secretary for the convention's Department of Youth. Mrs. Maria Lourdes Nunes was elected the first full-time executive to lead the young people of the convention's 54 churches. The new executive secretary formerly taught Christian Education at the Portuguese Baptist Theological Seminary.

H. D. Smith, Jr., pastor of First Baptist Church, Satsuma, Ala., for four years, has resigned to enter full-time evangelism and missions, beginning Oct. 1. Since April, 1953, he has served as pastor of churches in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama. Schlatter, Miss. is his hometown.

Smith Two groups went from the Satsuma church to Korea this year as members of a "Partnership Evangelism" team. The church has been eighth or higher in baptisms in Alabama each year under Smith's leadership.

Smith will be available for revivals, Bible conferences, January Bible studies and retreats. He will be living at 6800 Raspberry Lane, Apt. 1005, Shreveport, La. 71129.

Sam Morgan has been chosen as a recipient of the James L. Travis Scholarship at Blue Mountain College. Morgan was born at Senatobia. He is a social science and Bible major. The Travis Scholarship program was established in April of 1980 in honor of James Travis, professor of biblical studies at BMC, and scholarships are granted from the endowed fund annually to qualified Southern Baptist ministers preparing for ministry in a Southern Baptist church or agency.

Lynda Sanders is the new director of publicity for William Carey College. She was employed by the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville for nine years after serving as a missionary journeyman in Africa for two years. She is also teaching journalism at William Carey College.

Ronnie L. McCall is available for music supply and weekend revival work in central and south Mississippi.

He is a native of McComb, and received a degree in music at USM. He has seven years of experience in the church music ministry. McCall may be reached, Route 2, Box 172, Seminary, Miss., 39479. (Phone 722-4954.)

Rocky Creek Baptist Church, Lucedale, ordained Timothy Horace Welford on Sept. 5 to the gospel ministry.

Welford, whose home church is Rocky Creek, is minister of education and youth and associate pastor at Walker Baptist Church, Walker, La. He is a graduate of William Carey College and New Orleans Seminary. Roy T. Myers, Rocky Creek pastor, preached the ordination sermon and presented a Bible and certificate to Welford from the church. Others on program included Ben Blackwell, minister of music and youth at Rocky Creek; Marion Welford, the candidate's father; Don Boone, pastor, Magnolia Springs, Ala.; Brannan Eubanks, former missionary to Africa and a cousin of the candidate; and Herman Crotwell, Jr., chairman of deacons at Walker Church.

Welford College and New Orleans Seminary. Roy T. Myers, Rocky Creek pastor, preached the ordination sermon and presented a Bible and certificate to Welford from the church. Others on program included Ben Blackwell, minister of music and youth at Rocky Creek; Marion Welford, the candidate's father; Don Boone, pastor, Magnolia Springs, Ala.; Brannan Eubanks, former missionary to Africa and a cousin of the candidate; and Herman Crotwell, Jr., chairman of deacons at Walker Church.

Steve Knight is now the men's basketball coach and the assistant dean of men at William Carey College. After graduation from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1978, he played professional baseball for two years. Knight has been at Carey for a year and a half and received his master's degree from Carey in August, 1982.

Iris Brantley has been appointed as the dean of student development at William Carey College. Formerly the Director of special services, she earned her doctorate in education from the University of Southern Mississippi and has been active in the development of special education programs in Mississippi for many years.

Joyce Barnett has been promoted to alumni director for William Carey College. A graduate of William Carey College, she has worked for the college for 12 years, most recently on the William Carey Coast campus.

John G. McCall, pastor of First Baptist Church, Vicksburg, will retire Oct. 17, after 30 years of service there. The church will give a reception in honor of him and Mrs. McCall, on Oct. 17, from 3 to 5 p.m., in the fellowship hall of the church.

Four Mississippi Baptists have been selected as Outstanding Young Men of America for 1982, and their names will appear in an annual biographical compilation of outstanding young men. They are W. Lloyd Luncford, Jackson, associate, department of student work, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; Kenneth Wayne Jordan, Columbia, pastor, Calvary Baptist Church, Marion County; Wayne Marshall, Corinth, pastor, Calvary Baptist Church, Alcorn County; R. David Raddin, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Wiggins.

Leon Dunn was among over 220 persons who participated in the annual graduation exercises at the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, May 22. Dunn was among those students who completed degree requirements during the summer session. He is pastor at Hopewell Baptist Church, Little Rock, Miss. He is a native of Monticello, and has completed requirements for the Master of Divinity degree.

Elgin West, pastor of Bradford Chapel, Calhoun County, has retired from the active ministry. The church honored him with a special day on Sept. 5. Lunch was served at the church and a special program honoring the pastor was held in the afternoon. A monetary love gift from several former pastors and Bradford Chapel was given, as well as a plaque of appreciation. West has moved to Panola County and is available for supply preaching.

Emeritus Southern Baptist missionary Clyde J. Dotson died Sept. 30 in Oxford, Ala., after seeing his dream of a string of Baptist missions across Africa come true. Dotson, 77, was a native of Tusculum, Ala. When the Foreign Mission Board had no money to send him to Africa in 1930, he and his wife went to Rhodesia with an interdenominational agency. He translated the Bible into the Ndua language at the request of the British and Foreign Bible Society. In 1950 he and his wife were appointed Southern Baptists' first missionaries to Rhodesia. Survivors include his wife, who lives in Oxford (the former Anneli Valtonen of Finland—his third wife—the first died in a motorcycle accident and the second died of pregnancy complications) and seven children. The oldest, Lolete, is a Southern Baptist missionary nurse in Bophuthatswana now on furlough in Birmingham.

WMUers make Calif. connection

By Deborah Price Brunt

Paul and Barnabas witnessed in Antioch (Acts 11:22-26). Six Mississippi Baptist women set out for California recently to witness there.

Del Scoper of Laurel, Joan Tyler of Collins, Carolyn Kee of Woodville, June Ivy of Morton; Wilda Fancher of Coffeeville, and the writer (Corinth) went out to encourage and teach believers. Along with seven California women and three missionaries, we spent the last week of August traveling through the Golden State training church and associational Woman's Missionary Union leaders.

And how could we have done it without being sent? "Mississippi and California are partner states," explains Marjean Patterson, director of Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union. "Last year, I talked with Dixie Hunke," California WMU director. "We discussed the possibility of teaming up on some leadership training." The discussion bore fruit when Missis-

sippi WMU formed six laywomen into the "California Connection."

Hundreds of Mississippi women who stayed home had a part in the sending. Their love offerings at the state's last two WMU Conventions paid the six volunteers' food, lodging, and travel expenses for the week.

Dixie Hunke introduced us to five other California WMU trainers: Abbie Smith, Patty Fleming, Marty Krake, Marcia Avery, and Nell Branum. She also welcomed Nolen and Lisa Dunaway, missionaries to Spain; Cherry Chang, a recently retired home missionary and California's member on the Field Mission Board; and Nell Pearson, a California Starteam member. All would play a part in the week's training sessions.

After Saturday's orientation, the group split into two eight-member teams. The Southern team—composed of Mississippians Soper, Tyler, and Ivy; Californians Krake, Hunke, and Branum; and missionaries Lisa and Nolen Dunaway—

headed southwest to the the desert. Northern team members—Kee, Fancher, and Brunt of Mississippi; and Smith, Fleming, Avery Pearson, and Chang of California—rolled north through the state's hot but fertile central valley.

In all, the two teams traveled more than 1,500 miles by van, held 16 conferences in eight locations in five days, and trained more than 500 women.

The Lord provided someone to fix the van's broken air-conditioner, strength to travel each morning and then teach 1-9 p.m. flexibility to adapt plans, safety in travel, and creativity: if lights are unavailable, use flashlights.

California WMUers who attended the conferences received encouragement and training. Conference leaders from California and Mississippi flew or drove home Saturday, August 28, "not nearly as fresh" as when we had left, but immeasurably richer for the experience.

(Brunt lives in Corinth.)

Some Go To Church To Lift Their Voices In Song ... Others Go Just To Do Some Lifting.

Office equipment. Sound systems. Audiovisual equipment. Money. Antiques. All can tempt burglars and vandals to break into churches. That's why you need Aetna Life & Casualty's Church Insurance Program.¹

Preventing losses is a vital feature of Aetna's Program. So participating churches receive tips on how to make costly necessities and items of sentimental value less tempting. How to choose the right lock, safe, and burglar alarm. And how to prevent accidents like slips and falls, and disasters like fire.

Plus, the Program features affordable insurance coverages your church needs, a convenient payment plan, and the services of a local Aetna agent.

Because yours is a Southern Baptist Church, you'll want to know more about the Southern Baptist Insurance Trust² sponsored Church Insurance Program. Fill out and return the coupon.

¹ The Church Insurance Program is underwritten by the Automobile Insurance Company of Hartford, Connecticut, one of the Aetna Life & Casualty Companies

² Not affiliated with a State Convention or the Southern Baptist Convention.

Return to: Southern Baptist Insurance Trust, Suite 500, 8333 Douglas Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75225

Yes, I am interested in hearing more about the Southern Baptist Insurance Trust² sponsored Church Insurance Program. I understand this in no way obligates me.

Name of Church _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Person to Contact _____

Phone Number _____

Our present insurance expires on _____

*Not affiliated with a State Convention or the Southern Baptist Convention.

Aetna



Homecomings

Wesson Baptist Church, Wesson: homecoming held Oct. 10; Zeno Wells, former pastor, guest speaker; dinner served on the grounds.

Franklin Church (Hinds-Madison): homecoming, Oct. 17; Sam Creel, Sunshine Church, Pearl, preaching at 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds; Steve Purvis of Immanuel Church, Union, preaching at 2 p.m. service; Wayne Cox, song leader; special music by Betty Jo Parker; Freeman Pierce, pastor.

Jayess (Lawrence): homecoming, Oct. 17; Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.; morning worship service at 11; lunch served at the church; afternoon service featuring local groups, the Deacons' Quartet, and others in a song service; Mike Mitchell of Cedar Bluff, Ala., guest speaker; Lane Harris, pastor.

Mt. Pisgah, Enid (Tallahatchie): Oct. 17; homecoming; Sunday School at 10 a.m.; morning worship at 11; dinner on the grounds; singing in the afternoon; J. C. Hall, pastor; J. W. Burkhalter, music director.

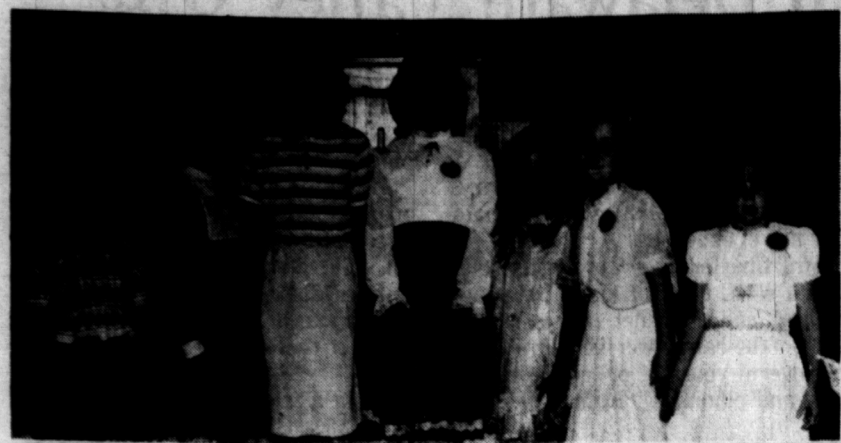
Lakeview Church, Leland: homecoming, Oct. 24; Sunday School at 9:30; worship service at 10:45; morning speaker, former pastor, Clayton Bath; dinner on the grounds; afternoon service at 1:30, with preaching by Herschel Wren; (Wren was licensed and ordained by Lakeview in 1955); gospel singing to follow the afternoon service; Harry Wilburn, pastor.

East Forest Baptist Church, Forest: homecoming, Oct. 17; Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.; John Walters preaching at the 10:45 a.m. worship service; lunch at 12; 2 p.m. singing, featuring Sister Gilba and the Leaf River Boys; Frank B. Morgan, Jr., pastor.

Beulah Church, Myrtle: homecoming Oct. 17; services to start at 10:30; lunch in the Fellowship Hall; The Believers to sing following lunch; Tommy Snyder, pastor; Sammy Hood, music director.

Calvary Church, Batesville: homecoming, Oct. 17; 30th anniversary homecoming day; 11 a.m. service to feature words of greeting from Mrs. L. G. Camp of Grand Bay, Ala., wife of Calvary's first pastor (Camp died in an automobile accident); anniversary message to be preached by Robert Martin, pastor, First, Rayville, La., who was pastor at First, Batesville, when it began the garage mission that became Calvary Church; lunch to be served on the grounds; 2 p.m. service of singing, drama, and recognition of former pastors and other staff members, plus charter members, and ministers who have gone out from Calvary; Floyd F. Higginbotham, pastor; Mike Barham, minister of music and youth. A revival was held Oct. 10-13 with J. D. Joslin, former pastor at Calvary for nine years, now retired and living at Sardis, and pastor of Pharsalia Church, as the evangelist. Calvary was organized Oct. 17, 1952, and has grown from 40 to 300.

Just for the Record



SPRING CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH, PHILADELPHIA held a GA recognition service Aug. 11, along with "Christmas in August." Girls who received badges were, left to right: Kandi Poe, Dene Fulton, Lee Ann Poe, Apryl Stokes, Heather Clower, Krystal Jones, and Julie Fulton.



WOODVILLE HEIGHTS BAPTIST MEN'S softball team, Jackson, won the Mississippi Baptist State Championship. L to R—back row: Robert Scott, coach, George Collins, David Torrence, Eddie Brewer, James Bailey, Harold Rogers, Mike Peusch. L to R—front row: Lee Riley, Ed Bullock, Ronnie Smith, Curtis Vann, Carroll Farmer, minister of education; Bill Glasgow. Not pictured: Mickey Parker, Bobby Fowler.



GA's OF PLEASANT HILL CHURCH, UNION COUNTY, recently had a combination "Christmas in August" and G.A. recognition service. Nine were recognized for completion of Mission Adventures. Members of the church placed gifts under a Christmas tree, to be mailed to Roger Stacy, formerly from Pontotoc, now with the Home Mission Board serving in Blanding, Utah. (Stacy is a nephew of the pastor of Pleasant Hill, Harvey Sewell.) Left to right are: Danielle Whiteside, Ginger Little, Chanda Cossitt, Jane Tate, Tina Stout, Joyce Berthay, Joy Sewell, Mandy Dees, Jennifer Cossitt. Back row, the leaders, left to right: Annie Ruth White and Linda Sewell.

A GA recognition and awards service was held at Cedar Grove Church, Columbia, Aug. 29 under direction of GA leader, Mrs. Edith Lawrence. Girls awarded Mission Adventure badges and pins were Becki Anglin, Rebecca Arthur, Amy Jones, Wendy McNeese, Wendy Dunn, Laura McNeese, Terry McNeese, and Kristi Anglin. Charles Anglin is the pastor.

Highland Church, Crystal Springs, has installed a new steeple. It was dedicated on Sept. 26.

Palmetto Baptist Church, Lee County, has completed a face lift of its education building. Terry Miller is pastor.

The Student Body Association of Mississippi College will present TRUTH in concert Friday, Oct. 15, at 9:30 p.m. in Nelson Auditorium on the Clinton campus. Tickets may be purchased at the door at \$3.00 each. For further information, call 924-5131, Ext. 243.

First Baptist Church, Beaumont, sent a group of volunteer workers to New Mexico this summer. The group held vacation Bible schools and one revival meeting. Those who went were Fern Strahan, Joe Strahan, pastor, Inez Jordan, Troy Gibbons, Scott Dearman, Grace Strahan, Ruth Strahan, Faye Herring, Lillie Mae Bexley, Jennie Mathis, Becky Deakle, and Stephanie Jordan.

First Baptist Church, Beaumont held its Vacation Bible School with an enrollment of 194. There was an average attendance of 134 for a 10 day school, in ten departments. Joseph Strahan is pastor. Mrs. J. C. Jordan was director of the Bible school.

TRUTH will be presented in concert at First Baptist Church, Senatobia, on Thursday, Oct. 28, at 7 p.m. The concert is being sponsored by the BSU of Northwest Junior College, Senatobia. Billy Bowie, BSU director at Northwest, said that no tickets will be sold but that an offering will be taken to pay expenses.

Deacons and wives of Dumas Baptist Church recently surprised their pastor, James M. Lewis, and his wife Kathy and their children, Marc and Jami, with a welcome home supper when they returned from vacation. Also a churchwide fish fry was held on Saturday night, Sept. 4.

Ask thy purse what thou shouldst spend.—Scottish Proverb.

Peso devaluations, inflation stress Baptist work in Mexico

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Successive devaluations of the peso, nationalization of private banks and rapidly escalating inflation put a triple pinch on Mexican families and mission work in Mexico and threaten to bring Baptist literature distribution to a standstill.

The Mexican Baptist Convention, with 429 churches and 40,000 members will be affected more than the Southern Baptist Convention's Foreign Mission Board's work in the country.

Devaluations in February and August cut the value of the peso from nearly four cents at the first of the year to less than a cent and a half. An inflation rate of roughly 50 percent—projected to reach 100 to 120 percent by year's end—further erodes the peso's purchasing power.

Americans, including church groups on mission trips, will be stopped at checkpoints 15-25 miles inside the border to search for unchanged dollars and will be stopped as they cross back into the U.S. and searched for sanctioned food items (Americans seeking food bargains have created food shortages for Mexican citizens).

Mexico's monetary problems have played havoc with the Baptist Spanish Publishing House in El Paso, Tex., which publishes materials for all of Latin America. Mexico, by far the publishing concern's biggest market, accounted for 18 percent of record wholesale sales of nearly \$2.5 million in 1981. So far this year sales to Mexico are roughly half that amount.

The biggest problem now deals with pricing books and literature, according to Don Kammerdiener, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board director for middle America and the Caribbean. Back in January, when the exchange rate was 26 pesos per dollar, a book printed to sell for one dollar cost 26 pesos in Mexico. With the official exchange rate now at 70 pesos per dollar, one would expect the same book to cost 70 pesos.

However, the bookseller in Mexico must use dollars to pay the publishing house in El Paso. Because he cannot legally exchange pesos for dollars he has to pay the street rate of 100 or more pesos per dollar. Thus, unless he takes a loss, he must charge at least four or five times what the same book cost eight months earlier.

Some distributors received shipments before the devaluation for which they have not paid. The dollar amounts they owe the publishing house remain the same but devaluation has increased the number of pesos they owe. The publishing house, in turn, probably will have to wait longer to collect.

The rippling effect of the peso's in-

stability brings hardship in other areas of Baptist work as well.

Church Education—Churches cannot afford the inflated peso/dollar prices to buy needed quarterly literature for Sunday School and other educational programs.

Outreach—The price of gasoline recently doubled for the second time in 15 months according to mission press representative Bonnie Hull. Mexican Baptist pastors can no longer afford to drive regularly to their mission points.

Construction—Because interest rates are prohibitive, churches save until they can afford to build. But peso devaluation and subsequent inflation wipe out as much as half of those savings, Kammerdiener explained.

Convention-wide programs—Convention workers, whose budgets are planned and paid for in pesos, re-

ceive the same number of pesos now as earlier in the year. But the purchasing power of those pesos is now less than half of what it was.

One bright spot lies in the mission's Foreign Mission Board support. Because the mission's budget comes from the board in dollars it stands to gain in buying power on the exchange from dollars to pesos.

The favorable exchange rate has enabled the mission to build up what mission treasurer Jimmy Hartfield calls a "little surplus" available to the national convention as it adjusts its problem budgets.

A portion of that surplus, \$53,200, was reallocated by Foreign Mission Board members Sept. 14 to help make up for increasing rental and travel costs and the devaluation of unspent pesos exchanged by the mission before the first devaluation.

Staff Changes

Bobby Connerley has resigned as pastor of the Moorhead Baptist Church to accept the pastorate of the Fisher Street Baptist Church, Jonesboro, Ark.

Richard Onarecker has joined the staff at Royal Palm Baptist Association in Florida as director of church extension. He is a graduate of William Carey College/Hattiesburg, and Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C. and he leaves the pastorate of Living Clay Church, Henderson, N.C.

Hank Edmondson has accepted the pastorate of Deerbrook Church, Noxubee Association. Calvary Church (Lowndes), Roy Hawkins, pastor, ordained him Oct. 3 to the gospel ministry.

Dwight L. Smith has been called as pastor of the West Ellisville Baptist Church, Ellisville, Jones County. He moved from the Scott Lake Baptist Church, Lakeland, Fla. Smith is a native of Sand Hill, in Greene County. He is a graduate of William Carey College, New Orleans Seminary, and Luther Rice Seminary. The church welcomed the Smiths with a pounding on Aug. 15.

Wade Ivey has accepted the call as minister of music and youth at Cambridge Baptist Church, Gautier. He is a graduate of Mobile College and Baylor University, and moved from First Baptist Church of Irvington where he held a similar position. Rob Davis is the pastor.

Byram Baptist Church has called Kenneth Harrison of Corinth Baptist Church, Leake County, as pastor. Henry J. Bennett retired in September, after having served the Byram Church as pastor for 38 years.

Horace McMillan has resigned as pastor of the New Salem Baptist Church, Attala County.

Mrs. Phil Herring has joined the staff of Parkway Baptist Church, Tupelo, as church pianist. Her "home" church is Calvary Baptist Church, Shannon, where she has formerly served in a similar capacity.

John Kitchens has resigned as pastor of Faith Church, Lowndes County, to accept the pastorate of a church in Lamar County, Ala.

Sanctuary dedicated

The new \$1.4 million sanctuary of Fairview Church, Columbus, was dedicated Oct. 10. Speaker was Earl Kelly, executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. The sanctuary choir sang the musical "Blessings" during a special early evening service. The day also celebrated the church's 24th anniversary homecoming. Gene Henderson is pastor.

The shortest and surest way to live with honor in the world is to be in reality what we appear to be.—Socrates

You must look into people as well as at them.—Chesterfield.

Bible Book

A God-given ministry

By Gene Henderson, pastor
Fairview, Columbus

II Cor. 3:1-18

Having given the Corinthians an explanation for his movements (II Cor. 1:12-17), Paul began an exposition of his ministry by declaring that it was God-given. Jesus Christ was the source and goal of Paul's ministry.

I. Paul's credentials 3:1-3

Although Paul participated in commending others (Acts 18:27; Rom. 16:1-2), he rejected the idea that he might be commending himself by his statement in II Cor. 2:14-17 or that he needed letters of commendation to the Corinthians. After all, the church had been established through his ministry. Paul argued that the Corinthians themselves were proof of his ministry. The change in the Corinthians, effected by the gospel Paul preached, had left an indelible memory in Paul's heart and was evident currently for all to see and know (3:2).

The Corinthians themselves validated Paul's ministry but he took no credit for what had happened. Christ was the author, the Spirit was the writing instrument, and the heart of the Corinthians was the tablet of Paul's letter of commendation (3:3).

II. Paul's confidence 3:4-6

One might assume Paul to be arrogant and boastful from the claim made in 2:14-3:3. The opposite, however, is true. Paul recognized his total dependence upon God. His confidence was based on Christ's work through him (3:4). He confessed that of himself he was not qualified or fit for the ministry that God had given him. God, however, made Paul sufficient or qualified him as a servant of the new covenant (3:5-6). Paul's past futile effort to achieve righteousness by works of the law had convinced him that the letter of the law led to death and only the spirit could give life (cf. Rom. 7:7-11; Gal. 3:10-11).

III. Paul's comparison 3:7-11

Both the ministry of the old covenant and the ministry of the new covenant, Paul declared, were accompanied by God's approval and validation (glory). Even though the old covenant resulted in death (ministry of death), it was integral to God's redemptive purpose. In Gal. 3:19-22 Paul taught that the old covenant prepared the way for the new covenant.

In 3:7-11 Paul pointed out how the ministry of the new covenant was superior to the old: (1) The old covenant (ministry of death) was temporary while the ministry of the Spirit was permanent (3:7-8). The fact that the "glory" on Moses' face "faded" was,

for Paul, evidence of its temporary nature (3:11). The word translated "fading" means "to make of no effect," "cancel," or "nullify." (2) The old covenant resulted in condemnation (ministry of condemnation) while the new covenant brought righteousness (ministry of righteousness). Paul had discovered that the law made demands which he could not keep and thus was condemned, but the Spirit not only made the demand, he supplied the power to fulfill the demand. (3) By employing the logic of "lesser to greater," Paul argued that the new covenant was superior (3:10) since its glory surpassed that of the old covenant. An example would be the "passing away" of moonlight when sunlight comes.

IV. Paul's contrast 3:12-18

Two contrasts are brought out by Paul in 3:12-18. He first contrasted his own ministry with the ministry of Moses, then he contrasted the effect of the two ministries.

Paul's ministry was characterized by boldness and openness because of the certainty (hope) he had (3:12). In contrast Moses used a veil to cover the fact that the brightness on his face was fading away (3:13). Paul concluded Moses used the veil to hid the fading, but the purpose of the veil is not stated in Exodus.

According to Paul, the veil remained in the lives of those under the old covenant. Veil is used in a figurative sense to indicate that the Jews said not see the prophetic fulfillment of the Messiah in Jesus. Both their minds and hearts were covered so that they could not see the truth of Christ. When one accepted Christ (turned to the Lord), the veil was taken away.

In contrast to the old covenant, the new covenant of the Spirit produced liberty. Paul related the Lord and the Spirit intimately in the experience of conversion. In fact, it is impossible to distinguish the influence of Christ from the influence of the Spirit in the Christian experience. Paul concluded that all believers were in the process of being transformed into the likeness of the Lord. This process was aided by beholding the glory of the Lord and by reflecting, though imperfectly, the glory of the Lord. Christians, unlike Moses, are to radiate openly and publicly God's glory in their lives.

A smile takes but a moment, but the memory of it sometimes lasts forever.

It is impossible to carry hatred in the heart without reflecting it in the face.—Mary McLeod.

Uniform

Hope for sinners

By Charles S. Davis
Associate professor of Bible, MC
Exodus 32:1-34:10

Exodus 34 forms the climax of a narrative which begins in Exodus 32 with the story of the golden calf. Chapter 32 relates the breaking of the covenant, while chapter 34 recounts its restoration. Chapter 33 bridges the two parts of the narrative, with an account of Moses' intercession, through which by God's grace the breach was finally healed.

I. Rebellion and rejection (32:1-29)

The story of the making of the golden calf shows how Israel supposedly wanted to have a visible symbol of the invisible God who had redeemed her. Israel's error in making the golden calf lay in her unwillingness to let God draw near to her in a free and uncontrolled manner. She wished to capture his presence in the golden calf, just as later generations of Israelites tried to capture his presence in the Temple at Jerusalem.

The making of a graven image of an animal and worshipping the Lord under that guise was a violation of the second commandment. Furthermore, no matter how Aaron may have understood the relationship between the golden calf and the Lord, the people themselves worshiped the calf and offered sacrifices to it.

Added to their rebellion against God was their faithlessness and impatience in rejecting Moses, substituting a created image for living personality as the medium of divine revelation. Moreover, their rebellion and rejection was apparently accompanied by improper personal and moral conduct (32:6,18-19) associated with their worship.

When Moses came down from Mt. Sinai and saw the people dancing around the golden calf, he broke the tablets of law which he held in his hands (32:19). This was not merely an uncontrolled outburst of anger, but was a symbolic representation of the fact that God's covenant with his people had now been broken.

II. Restoration and renewal (32:30-34:10)

The record of Moses' intercession on behalf of those who had made the golden calf is one of the most magnificent passages in the Old Testament. Brokenhearted because of the sins of the people, Moses cried out to God to forgive them: "Alas, this people have sinned a great sin; they have made for themselves gods of gold. But now, if thou wilt forgive their sin—and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written" (32:31-32).

This prayer of Moses reminds one of the prayer of Jesus in Gethsemane.

Embedded in this account of covenant breaking and covenant renewal is God's command to Moses and the Israelites to depart from Sinai and to enter the land of Canaan (33:1-3). This command is accompanied by a solemn announcement: "I will not go up among you, lest I consume you in the way, for you are a stiff-necked people" (33:3).

Moses responded to God's announcement with three requests: (1) He requested that someone be sent with him to guide the people through the wilderness. God answers this request by sending Hobab the Midianite, a man well-acquainted with the wilderness (Numbers 10:29-33). (2) Moses' second request was that God not withdraw his presence from his people (33:13-17). God agreed to dwell with his people as they journeyed through the wilderness. (3) Moses' final request was that God show him his glory (33:18). God answers by showing Moses enough of his presence and his power to confirm his faith, but he conceals enough to stimulate his reverence. Moses cannot see God "face to face," for there is a mystery about the nature of God which one ignores at his own peril.

As a result of Moses' intercession and Israel's repentance (33:4-6), God renewed his covenant with his people (34:1-10). The renewal of the covenant was accompanied by a revelation of the glory of the Lord and the proclamation of his name to Moses. In one of the greatest theological statements in all the Bible, the Lord reveals his character as a loving, merciful, gracious, faithful, and forgiving God (34:6-7).

The remaking of the tablets of the Ten Commandments did not signify a new covenant but only a renewal of the old one. When the old covenant had been broken beyond repair, God through Jeremiah promised Israel a new covenant (31:31-34). This promise was fulfilled in Jesus Christ. We celebrate the giving of the new covenant each time we observe the Lord's Supper and recall his words: "This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me" (I Corinthians 11:25).

A joy that's shared is a joy made double.—John Ray

A burden must be carried before we can put it down.—Tamil

Life and work

Overcoming opposition

By David McCubbin, associate
pastor, First, Meridian
I John 2:18-22; 4:1-6

Jesus Christ lived a life of concern and compassion. He taught, helped and healed. He lived not for self but for others. Yet there were those who opposed him. This opposition gathered momentum until it nailed him to a cross. Jesus had said, "He that is not for me is against me, he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad" (Matthew 12:30). Men, controlled by evil impulses, would not try to understand him. They put him to death.

John writes about some in his day who were false teachers. They did not understand the nature of Jesus. They were not for him as he truly was. Their doctrine and actions were hurting the churches. John uses the term antichrist to describe this opposition to Christ.

In our day there is strong and growing opposition to Christ. Cults exist that have distorted Christ's truth and do not follow him as Lord. Life styles are in vogue that do not respect the moral code as revealed in scripture. Crime is a growing monster. Human life is getting cheaper and property is up for grabs to the most ruthless. All of this is in stark contrast to the one who stands for peace, truth and righteousness.

In our lesson text John shifts into urging his readers to overcome false teaching and remain true to Jesus Christ. Note 2:26a, "I write this to you about those who would deceive you;" and 2:28, "and now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming."

Let's look more closely at our text remembering that commentary must necessarily be limited.

In 2:15, John tells them not to love the world (one cannot serve out of love both God and mammon Matthew 6:24). The world is evil in contrast to God who is good. The world is temporal in contrast to God who is eternal.

Using the evil and temporal nature of the world as a springboard he jumps into something else. From prophetic revelation there was a strand of thought about the end time. History is moving toward the day of the Lord. This will be a day when God in judgment will bring a catastrophic end to this evil age. Either in preparation for this end time or coinciding with it, false prophets will multiply and evil as a person, power or principle will greatly increase. The early church picked up on this but came to under-

stand it in the light of Jesus, the Christ. The day of the Lord was equated with the second coming of Christ and growing evil was seen as opposition to Christ, his nature and his will. Whether the term antichrist was in general use by the church to express belief or whether John coined the word (it's used only in his letters) to express it we cannot know.

Having expressed the evil and temporal nature of the world he suggests to his readers that their day could well be the beginning of the end. After all, they heard of antichrist, there were many antichrists seeking to lead people astray.

John focused on a pivotal belief as he warned his readers about those opposed to Christ. The belief centered on the nature of Jesus. He was God incarnate in human flesh. If one denied either the divinity or the humanity of Jesus then he was controlled by the spirit of antichrist. He was a false teacher (2:22-23, 4:23), and capable of deceiving and leading others away from Jesus (2:26-28).

How can we then overcome opposition to Christ?

First—Live in the light of truth (right understanding about Jesus) and in community (love one another) so that those who are false will be so uncomfortable they will either change or leave (2:19).

Second—Build on basics (2:20-21, 24-25). I believe John used a play on words. Christ (anointed one) antichrist and charisma (anointed 2:24, anointing 2:27). The antichrist ones believed they were anointed with (given) a special knowledge. Christ is God's anointed one. To abide in Him (anointed or given God's gift) is to have all the knowledge you need. Back to the basics of trust in Jesus.

Third—Discern between truth and error in religious faith (4:1-6). How can this be done? Find out what is being taught about Jesus. If the teaching does not deny his divinity or his humanity, if he is central, if he is Lord then other things are either insignificant or they will fit into place. If the teaching denies the incarnation and that Jesus is Lord it is in error. Jesus is the key to truth and error.

Two things a man should never be angry at: what he can help, and what he cannot.—English Proverb.

Each thought that is welcomed and recorded is a nest egg, by the side of which more will be laid.—Thoreau.